<u>REMARKS</u>

By the above amendment, claims 3-5 and 7 will have been amended solely to delete multiple claim dependency (and not to limit or narrow any of the claims), and claims 8-18 will have been added. Claims 1-18 are pending for consideration by the Examiner. This Amendment has not been made for purposes of patentability and should thus not be considered a decision by Applicants to narrow the claims in any way.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted, Akihiko ENDO et al.

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